1. What is your opinion of the statement "iPads improve classroom instruction?" (This was also the subject of my Literature Review)

I agree with this, but believe that the iPad's effectiveness directly corresponds with the teacher's ability to use it, if they understand its capabilities, and can incorporate it into lesson plans.

2.  How much training do teachers require to effectively use iPads in the classroom?

It really depends on the teacher. To stereotype, most younger teachers find it easier to use while some older teachers find it complicated. I consider myself a somewhat tech-savvy teacher, but I still enjoy learning new things that I can incorporate on the iPad.

3. How have you used the iPad in your class?

Yes, as often as possible. On average, I use them three times a week.

4. How have your students responded to the iPad?

Most really enjoy using them. However, there are still some luddites out there who resist technology and prefer pen and paper. Just today we were doing an activity in which students designed their own arena for the Hunger Games on iPads using the Toontastic App, and I had a handful of students ask if they could just draw it because they couldn't figure out the iPad's gadgets.

5. What are some advantages of using the iPad?

The mobility is really great for a classroom. Students can walk around and share information without the hassle of wires. There are so many apps for students to use for each subject. In English, we use Toontastic, Show Me, Rhymezone, Notability, and IXL the most. Also, I can use the iPad as a modification tool for students with reading or writing disabilities. One of my students uses speech-to-text apps almost every day in class.

6. What are some disadvantages of using the iPad?

I've yet to see many, but I suppose one could argue that students lose out on their opportunity to practice penmanship.

7. How much of an impact do finances/funding factor in with iPad use in the classroom?

That really depends on the district. I worked in a Title 1 school last year and using iPads in the classroom was a distant dream of mine. Now, I work in a more affluent community where students are at a 1:1 ratio at the high school, and a 1:2 ratio at the middle school where I work. It doesn't seem like such a big deal anymore, but I recognize the expense because of my previous work experience.

Another thing to note is that technology quickly goes out of date. I hear stories at the high school about how they had this plan for recycling the iPads from seniors to freshmen, but then the iPads are four years old and seem dated, so they feel like they need to update them or buy new ones.

8.  What does the term "educate 1:1" mean to you?

One student assigned to one iPad, with every child having one in the school. Every student gets an iPad and it is their responsibility to take it to class, use it at home, and be responsible for it.